
MEDIA ADVISORY

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Department of State



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SECRETARY OF STATE AL ATER REACHES AGREEMENT WITH FEMA TO REACH DISPLACED VOTERS

BATON ROUGE, LA – Secretary of State Al Ater has successfully reached an agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to send notification of basic voting rights to people from Louisiana that have requested FEMA assistance.

FEMA will mail out, on behalf of the Secretary of State Ater's Office, a flyer informing applicants of their basic voting rights with regard to participating in elections scheduled in communities from which they are temporarily displaced.

The information to be distributed is in the process of being approved by the Louisiana Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Department of Justice.

"I'm disappointed to learn FEMA has again denied our request for funding for public service announcements in areas with high concentrations of evacuees either within or beyond Louisiana's borders," Ater said.

Ater said he's already had contact with celebrities who have offered to speak in informational radio and television spots at no charge to let evacuees know who to call and where to find information detailing their voting rights.

"We still feel the public service announcements are an additional important avenue in reaching Louisiana's displaced voters," Ater said. "We will continue to pursue additional funding options for the announcements."

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